annexure [*See Appendix 182, Annexure No. 26*] filling up of vacancies/selection/ panel formation is an on-going continuous process and there has been no avoidable delay in framing panels.

The information regarding Department-wise. Railway-wise and grade-wise sanctioned strength and vacancies as on 31st March, 1997 in all Zones/Units/RDSO is voluminous in nature and is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Distributorship of Oil Companies

*154. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.P. Oil Selection Board (West) is arranging interviews/selection formalities of the eligible candidates for allotments of the "Distributorship" of various oil companies in due course of time;

(b) if so, the names of those places where such "Distributorship" are to be allotted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some Members of Parliament have given some suggestions to the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum on the subject; and

(d) if so, whether the Oil Selection Board will keep in mind all such suggestions during the course of interviews/selection; and upto which specific date, all selection formalities will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In addition to the locations pending from earlier Marketing Plans, 83 Retail Outlet dealerships and 351 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plans 1996—98 for U.P.

(c) and (d) suggestion from Members of Parliament are received from time to time. These suggestions are taken into consideration while taking policy decisions. Efforts are made in each case for expeditious disposal.

Computerised railway booking offices in Gujarat

*155. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations and city booking offices in Gujarat having provision of return journey facilities through computer terminal with details thereof, station-wise and city booking office-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) At all the 14 stations in Gujarat which have computerised reservation facilities i.e. Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Anand, New Bhuj, Jamnagar, Gandhidham, Bharuch, Nadiad, Veraval, Navsari, Valsad and 6 satellite locations i.e. Gandhinagar, Maninagar, Gandhigram, Sabarmati (Ahmedabad), Pratapnagar, Padmavati City Booking Office (Vadodara); bookings for onward and return journey reservations can be made for all trains originating from the stations linked to the reservation System at Mumbai which covers both the Zones of Central and Western Railways.

(b) and (c) Due to certain limitations in the telecommunication links, it has been possible to provide connectivity with the Chennai, Calcutta, Delhi and Secunderabad Systems at only a very limited number of counters at Surat, Vadodara, Ahmedabad and Rajkot stations. To overcome this limitation a project has been undertaken for networking of all the 5 Systems, the software for which has been developed and the first phase successfully established between the Delhi and Secunderabad Systems. It would be

feasible to link the other locations in Gujarat with the Delhi, Secunderabad, Calcutta, and Chennai Systems in phases only after each System has been connected on the network.

Capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery

*156. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Oil Refineries whose capacity has been enhanced during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the capacity of Barauni Oil Refinery situated in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) During the last three years, capacities of four oil refineries have been enhanced.

(b) Barauni Oil Refinery in Bihar has three Crude Distillation Units. The total capacity of the Barauni Oil Refinery of these three units taken together is 3.3 MMTPA.

Accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express

*157. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the accident in Ahmedabad-Howrah Express on 14th September, 1997, near Champa;

(b) the number of people killed and injured and the compensation paid in each case;

(c) the loss caused to the railway property; and

(d) whether any enquiry was instituted and, if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) 8033 Ahmedabad-Howrah Express while on run towards Howrah on 14.09.1997, 7 bogies next to the Train Engine got derailed at the approach of the bridge near Champa Station on Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway, where some repair works were going on. 5 out 7 derailed coaches fell into the river bed resulting in death of 88 passengers and injury to 369 passengers, out of which 127 passengers sustained grievous injuries. The ex.gratia payment amounting to Rs. 25,000/-, 15,000/- and 2,000/- have been paid to the kins of the persons killed and to the persons, who have sustained grievous and simple injuries respectively. The payment of compensation will be decided after claims have been lodged with the concerned Bench of the Railway Claims Tribunal by the claimants and affected parties. The accident has been investigated by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, whose final report is awaited. *Prima Facie,* discontinuity in rail during its repair and failure of railway staff are the reasons for the accident. The loss to Railway property has been estimated at Rs. 69,83,000/- approximately.

Oil Reserve in Tripura

*158. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter it is a fact that the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has entrusted two U.S. firms to conduct survey to tap possible oil reserves in Tripura;

(b) if so, by when it would start surveying; and

(c) whether any survey is being conducted in other States of North-East specially Manipur regarding tapping of oil reserves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has awarded a block (AA-ON/3) in Central and Eastern Tripura to Okland Company and Rexwood Exploration, both of USA for exploration subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions.